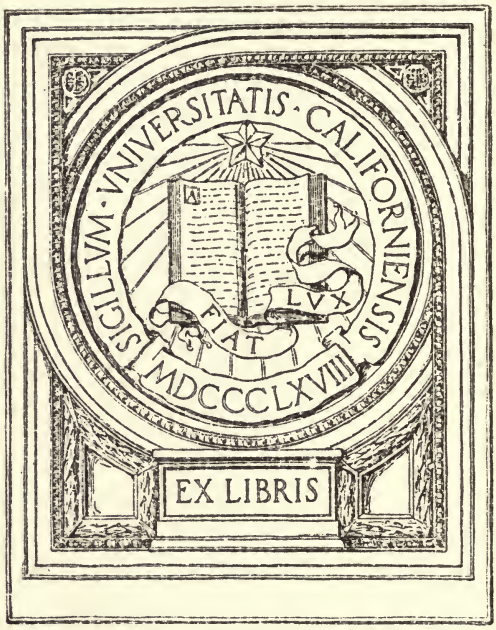
WHEN MOTHER LETS US GARDEN

FRANCES DUNCAN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WHEN MOTHER LETS US GARDEN

In the Garden

WHEN MOTHER LETS US GARDEN

A BOOK FOR LITTLE FOLK WHO WANT TO MAKE GARDENS AND DON'T KNOW HOW

By FRANCES DUNCAN

Author of "Mary's Garden, and how it Grew," Editor Garden Department Ladies' Home Journal

ILLUSTRATED BY ADA BUDELL

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TO

ADA AND DOROTHEA YALE

WHOSE GARDENS AT LEAST ARE ENTHUSIASTIC
THIS LITTLE BOOK IS HOPEFULLY DEDICATED
BY THEIR AFFECTIONATE AUNT

416106

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FLOWER GARDENING

"Every path and every plot,
Every bush of roses,
Every blue forget-me-not
Where the dew reposes.

" 'Up!' they cry, 'the day is come
On the smiling valleys,
We have beat the morning drum;
Playmate, join your allies!' "

R. L. Stevenson.

HOW TO BEGIN YOUR GARDEN

The very nicest kind of fathers and mothers will always let you make a garden. If there isn't a small piece of ground that you can have, then take a box; if you can't have a box of earth, then take a flower-pot or even a tin can; or if you can't get the earth, then make an aquatic garden with just water.

The first thing is to find a place for your garden. Don't choose a place near a tree or under a tree, or your flowers will find little to eat because the tree-roots will have been there before them. If you can, get a place in the full sunshine. If you can't have sunshine all day, try for a place which has the morning sun, rather than the afternoon sun. Flowers are like children and like to wake up early in the morning; there are only a few that prefer sleeping late.

Beside your little garden, try to have a place for a seed-bed; this need not be large and, if possible, it should have the morning sun, and shade part of the day. Here you sow in narrow rows little plants which later you transplant to their homes in your garden.

If you can only have a shady place for your garden, you can still have a very pretty one, only you must be sure to plant the flowers that like the

shade, such as pansies, forget-me-nots, lily-of-the-valley.

Gardening is a little different from cooking in that gardeners can't regulate the fires, except when they have greenhouses, and that is an artificial kind; for sure-enough, out-of-door gardens Mother Nature is the Cook. We can only prepare the mixture; we can watch it and tend it and see that it doesn't burn, but we have to wait for her to turn on enough heat from the sun to make the plants grow. We cannot even start preparing a garden until she unlocks her storehouse and sends Jack Frost away. Therefore when we first think of garden-making we must see how much heat Mother Nature has turned on, whether we can start our garden out-doors, or if we must grow things in the house and supply the heat ourselves.

As soon as Mother Nature has unlocked her pantry you can begin your garden, that is, as soon as the ground is soft enough to dig. It is well to persuade a grown-up to do the digging. This needs to be done thoroughly: The whole future happiness of your plants depends on whether their food is properly prepared for them and whether the garden-beds are deeply dug. Eighteen inches or two feet is not a bit too deep. The seed-bed need not be dug so deeply, it is only the babies that are in here, they do not eat so much, nor do their roots go so deep.

WHAT PLANTS EAT

Water and soil are the chief of their diet;
Manure makes it rich; if you haven't this, buy it.

WHAT PLANTS EAT

Soil is what the plants eat and so it makes a good deal of difference to a plant if it finds anything good to eat in its home or not. It makes a difference too if the soil is not broken into small enough pieces for the roots to eat; if it is left hard as a board, the roots, not being gimlets, find it hard to bore their way through. So when real gardeners are making ready homes for the plants they dig the beds deep so that the roots can easily push their way down; they add manure so that the roots will have something nice to eat; they make the soil soft and fine so that the roots will find it easy to take and mix the manure in very thoroughly so that the rich food will not give the plants indigestion.

Poor soil is earth which has so little good to eat in it that most plants find it hard to grow in. There are a few that like this. On poor soil you can grow nasturtiums, California poppies, Shirley poppies and mignonette.

Sandy soil is very fine and crumbly. If you take it up in your hands, it slips through your fingers as easily as granulated sugar.

On sandy soil you can grow dahlias, poppies, cornflowers, and roses (if manure is added).

Clayey soil is stiff and sometimes sticky. It is often grayish or pale brown in color. If you squeeze a handful it will stick together like wet snow when you make snowballs. Sometimes a clayey soil is called "heavy." In clayey soil you can grow roses, dahlias, zinnias—if a little manure be added. Rich soil is dark and soft-looking when dug. A light rich soil is a rich soil that has plenty of sand in it. A heavy rich soil has not.

To make poor soil better, add manure and dig it in well. If you haven't manure, add leafmold. To make sandy soil richer, add manure or leafmold. To make clayey soil lighter, add sand and manure.

WHEN TO PLANT THINGS

In March, or as soon as the garden-beds are ready you can plant rose-bushes and any kind of bush that stays out of doors all winter; roots of hardy perennials which live out of doors all winter, such as hardy chrysanthemums and hardy phlox. These can be bought or a grown-up gardener friend might give you a root. But you must only plant now, things that have been growing out of doors, and are used to cold weather.

Trees: If you want to plant a tree, now is the time to do it.

Sweet peas and poppies you can sow now, also California poppies and pansies.

In the vegetable garden you can sow now beets, carrots, parsley, parsnips, peas, radishes, and turnips.

In April you can sow coreopsis, Drummond's phlox, pot marigolds, mignonette, pansies, candytuft, cornflower, cosmos, China asters, marigolds, petunias, pinks and morning-glories.

You can plant roots of golden glow, hollyhocks, phlox, larkspur, and lily-of-the-valley.

In the vegetable garden you can sow beets, carrots, cabbage, lettuce, peas, radishes, parsnips.

In May you can sow balsam, China asters, coreopsis, cornflowers, cosmos, marigolds, mignonette, nasturtiums and morning-glories.

You can set out pansies, geraniums and other plants.

In the kitchen garden you can sow beans, Lima beans, corn, cucumbers, melons, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes.

In June you can sow balsam, coreopsis, marigolds, mignonette, zinnias.

You can set out pansies, geraniums, forget-me-nots, and other plants.

In the kitchen garden sow bush beans, Lima beans, corn, lettuce, melons.

In July you can sow hollyhocks, larkspur, sweet William, foxglove, Canterbury bells, and pansies in the flower garden for next year's blooming.

In the kitchen garden, beans, beets, carrots, corn, cucumbers, turnips.

In August you can pot Easter lilies for Christmas blooming. You can plant in the garden bulbs of crocus, snowdrop, scilla.

In the vegetable garden sow lettuce and turnips for fall.

In September you can plant roots of larkspur, hollyhocks, phlox, peonies. You can plant crocus, snowdrop, scilla in the garden. Pot narcis-

sus, hyacinths, Easter lilies for winter flowers.

Make cuttings of geraniums and other plants.

Start a winter window-box.

In the kitchen garden sow lettuce and radishes.

In October you can plant bulbs in the ground —tulips, hyacinths, crocus and others. Plant roots of hollyhocks, larkspur and other hardy plants.

You can pot Easter lilies, hyacinths, daffodils, jonquils, narcissus, tulips for indoor blooming.

You can take up from your mother's garden, asters, stocks, sweet alyssum, tobacco plant, to bloom indoors.

In November you can plant tulips, narcissus, hyacinths, lily-of-the-valley in the ground as long as it isn't frozen.

Pot Easter lilies for bloom at Easter, hyacinths, daffodils, jonquils, narcissus, tulips.

Plant hyacinths and narcissi in water.

Make a window garden.

Make cuttings of any plants you can get.

In December you can start Roman hyacinths, paper-white narcissus, Duc van Thol tulips.

Bring up bulbs you potted in October.

In January you can grow narcissus and Roman hyacinths and Chinese lilies in stones and water.

Start baby shrubs from cuttings.

In February you can grow narcissus in stones and water.

Bring up the bulbs you potted in October.

For the kitchen garden you can start tomato plants in tin cans or anything handy.

ADA BUDELL

"A root is a group of growing fibres which taste and suck what is good for a plant out of the ground, and by their united strength hold it in place. The thick limbs of roots do not feed, but only the fine ends of them, which are something between tongues and sponges, and while they absorb moisture readily, are yet as particular about getting what they think nice to eat as any dainty little boy or girl; looking for it everywhere, and turning angry or sulky if they don't get it." —*John Ruskin.*

ARRANGING FLOWER BEDS

When your flower-bed is against a wall or a fence, you must be sure to put the tallest plants at the back—because it is easy enough for these to look over the heads of the shorter ones, but if instead you put the little ones at the back, they can't see anything, nor get any air or sunshine, for the tall plants take it all.

So here are the flowers, placed according to size, like the big bear, the middle-sized bear, and the little bear in the fairy story.

These are for beds in full sunshine.

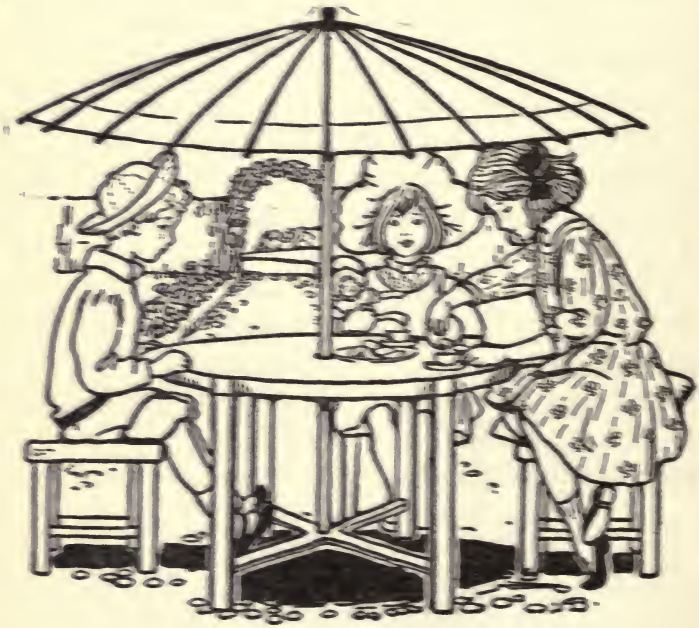
TALL FLOWERS	MIDDLE-SIZED	LITTLE FLOWERS
Cosmos	Marigolds	Dwarf Nasturtiums
Hollyhocks	Chrysanthemums	Pot Marigolds
Sunflowers	Cornflowers	Candytuft
Tobacco Plant	Coreopsis	California Poppies
Sweet Peas	Zinnias	Miniature Marigolds
Larkspur	Poppies	Pansies
Morning Glory	Phlox	Drummond's Phlox
Tall Nasturtiums	Petunias	Zinnia "Red Riding Hood"
		Mignonette
		Portulaca

If the garden is a little shady, these are the flowers you can plant.

TALL FLOWERS	MIDDLE-SIZED	LITTLE FLOWERS
Tobacco Plant	Coreopsis	California Poppy
Hardy Phlox	Petunia	Pansies
Foxglove	Salvia	Forget-me-nots
Larkspur		Mignonette
		Sweet Alyssum

If the garden is very shady.

TALL FLOWERS	MIDDLE-SIZED	LITTLE FLOWERS
Monkshood	Lunlun Pride	Pansies
Tiger Lilies	Bee Balsam	Forget-me-not
	German Iris	Lily-of-the-Valley



GARDEN DEFENSES

It is usually pleasanter to have your garden screened off from grown-up people who may not appreciate it.

Here are plants which will make a screen for you six or eight feet high:

Giant Russian sunflower.

Castor-oil bean.

Early May is the time to sow the seeds.

Make the bed ready and plant the seed as you plant your cornflowers, except that for a screen, it should be sown in a row.

Cosmos would be tall enough to plant for a screen but it is too easily hurt by the wind and likes to have a fence to lean against.

If you do not need to have your garden wall so high, then you might plant a hedge by way of breastworks—this might be defense enough.

SHIRLEY POPPIES

"Take a poppy seed. . . . The genie in the Arabian Tale is not half so astonishing. In this tiny casket lie folded roots, stalks, leaves, buds, flowers, seed-vessels,—surpassing color and beautiful form, all that goes to make up a plant which is as gigantic in proportion to the bounds which confine it as the oak is to the acorn."

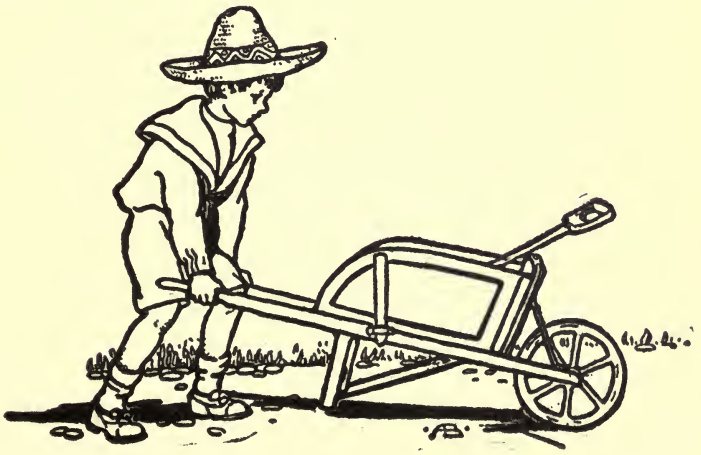
—*Celia Thaxter.*

POPPIES

Choose a place which has the sun all day. Make the ground very smooth and fine, water it with fine spray. Then sprinkle the seed thinly and do not cover, press it down with the flat of your hand or with a board. Then, if you have them, strew lawn grass clippings over the bed to prevent the tiny seed from drying out. When the little plants are up, lift off the grass clippings carefully, pull up some of the baby poppies so that those you leave will have room enough.

When the poppies are done flowering, you can pull them up and plant dahlias or set out plants from your seed-bed.

In just the same way you can plant California poppies, only these do not need the sun all day.



SWEET PEAS

Here are sweet peas on tiptoe for a flight,
With wings of gentle flush o'erspread with white
And taper fingers catching at all things
To bind them all about with tiny rings.

John Keats.

SWEET PEAS

Sweet peas are not hard to grow, but they are very particular about a few things. This is the way to grow extra fine sweet peas:

Dig a trench two feet deep and a foot and a half wide. Fill in with rich, well-worked soil until your trench is only one foot deep. Next put in a layer of sheep manure two inches deep. If you can't get this, use old cow manure. Then two inches of soil, then sprinkle wood ashes, then put another layer of soil. This is a queer kind of layer cake, but the sweet peas like it. Then you will have a trench six inches deep. Take a string and divide lengthwise into three parts so that each will be about six inches wide. The middle division is for brush. On the space each side, sow the seed—sprinkle it thinly over the whole six inches. Don't sow it in a narrow row. Then cover the seed with one inch of soil and press down. After the little plants come up, fill in the trench until it is level with the ground.

If you like, you can plant sweet peas just as you plant garden peas, but this way, although it is a little more trouble, is the way to have extra fine flowers.

The worst enemy you will have to watch for, is

the cutworm. You will find him a half inch below the surface of the ground hard at work cutting the stalks off.

Sweet peas like to be kept moist. It is a good thing to spread lawn grass clippings over their roots.

Here are some of the best kinds:

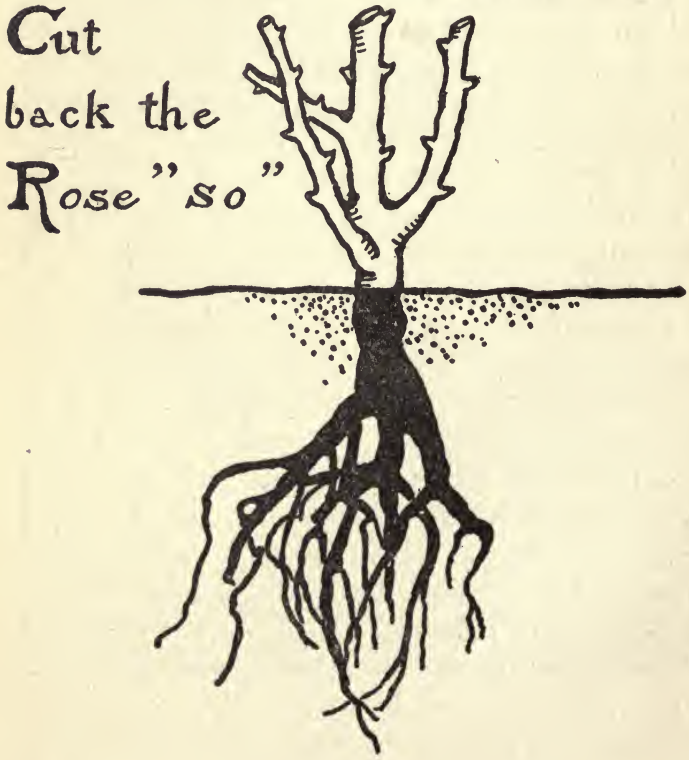
White, Dorothy Eckford.
Pale-yellow, Mrs. E. Kenyon.
Scarlet, Queen Alexandra.
Orange-pink, Miss Wilmot.
Soft pink, Gladys Unwin.
Rose, Prince of Wales.
Lavender-blue, Lady Grisel Hamilton.
Dark Blue, Navy Blue or Black Knight.

ADA·BUDELL

ROSES

The lily has an air,
And the snowdrop a grace,
And the sweet pea a way
And the heart's-ease a face,—
Yet there's nothing like the rose
When she blows.

Christina Rossetti.



ROSES

If your mother brings home a rose-plant from the Orphan Asylum of a bargain-counter, remember to thank her for her kind intentions and treat the humiliated plant in this way. First, look carefully at the roots. It may be broken in root as well as in spirit. With a sharp knife cut off any that are bruised or broken. Then set the plant in a pail of tepid water, while you are making ready a place for it—the roots are probably dry. Dig the hole deep and be sure you get it wide enough so that the roots will be comfortable. Put some well-rotted manure in the bottom, then some soil. Now you are ready for the plant.

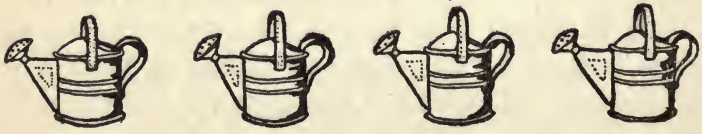
Cut it back until it looks like illustration on opposite page. Be sure that the bud is two inches below the surface of the soil. Hold the rose-bush in your left hand, push the soil down around it with your right, work it in among the roots with your fingers, being careful not to hurt them. When the hole is half full, fill it up with water. Let this settle, then fill it again and let it settle again, then put in the rest of the soil. Press it down well and your rose is planted. This is the way to plant any shrub or bush but other shrubs don't need the tops cut off them.

Roses have a great many troubles. One of the best ways to keep them safe from insects is to spray the leaves very often with water and soap and water. Insects, like untidy children, prefer keeping away from soap and water but the roses like it.

To spray the roses use a brass syringe. This doesn't cost very much and has a great many diverting uses.

Some of the easiest roses to grow are these:

CLIMBING ROSES.	BUSH ROSES
Crimson Rambler.	Kaiserin Augusta Victoria.
Dawson.	Gruss an Teplitz.
Reine Marie Henriette.	Paul Neyron.
	Magna Charta.
	Prince Camille de Rohan.



HARDY PHLOX AND OTHER PLANTS

As soon as the ground can be dug, there are lots of plants you can set out.

If an older gardener friend has promised you some of his hardy perennials, now is the time to remind him tactfully of his promise. Clumps of hardy phlox, clove-pinks, hardy chrysanthemums, Japanese anemone—all of these he can take up, and divide now and give you some.

If you like, you can buy young plants of hollyhocks and larkspurs and Canterbury bells and set them out now. You plant these just as you planted roses except that there isn't any "bud" or graft to look out for. The plants are set just as deep in the ground as they were before.

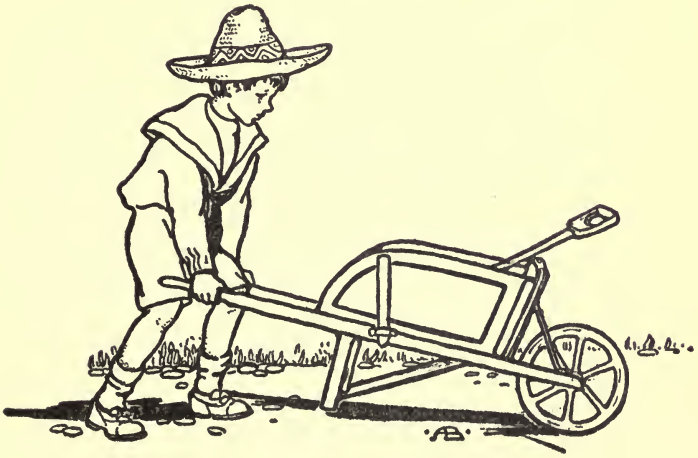
The best time to plant things that bloom in the late summer or fall, is in the spring, for, since this isn't their busy season, they have now time to arrange their roots and lay in plenty of provisions; but if you want to save money and aren't in a hurry, wait until August and sow the seed for next year.

CORNFLOWERS

Have the soil fine and light and choose a sunny place in the garden, just where you want the plants to grow. The cornflower seeds are like tiny silvery shuttlecocks weighted so that the heads sink down. Sprinkle the seeds, cover them with the soil and then water with a fine spray. When the little seedlings are up, they must be thinned or they will all fare like the children of the Old Woman who lived in a Shoe, and have scanty suppers. Pull out the crowding plants until those you leave will stand two or three inches apart. This will give the baby cornflowers enough to eat until they get to be four or five inches high, then you must thin them again. Cornflowers are hard to transplant, but it can be done, and it is kinder to give the unwanted little cornflowers at least a chance of life. Then one doesn't feel quite so much as if one were abandoning a helpless infant, like the luckless nobleman of the Winter's Tale. When the plants are about eight inches tall, pinch off the top to make it bushy and branch. This, like thinning, requires a great deal of strength of character.

In just the same way, you can plant

Candytuft.
California poppy.
Sweet alyssum.
Coreopsis.
Japan pink.
Portulaca.
Mignonette.
Petunia.
Morning-glory.
China asters.
Sunflowers.



MARIGOLDS

"The first small bed at the lighthouse island contained only marigolds, pot marigolds, fire-colored blossoms which were the joy of my heart as the delight of my eyes. . . . When I planted the dry, brown seeds I noticed how they were shaped like crescents, with a fine line of ornamental dots, a 'beading' along the whole length of the centre, and from the crescent sprang the marigold plant, each of whose flowers was like

"A mimic sun
With ray-like florets round a disk-like face."

In my childish mind I pondered much on this fact of the crescent growing into the full-rayed orb."

—*Celia Thaxter.*

MARIGOLDS

Sow the seed in narrow rows in the seed-bed. Just cover the little seeds with soil, press it down with the flat of your hand, then water and keep the ground moist until the little plants come up. When two or three leaves have formed, with a flat stick or a broad-bladed jackknife pry out some of the plants, leaving others, so that those you leave in the rows will stand three inches apart. Press down the soil well and set out somewhere else or give away the little plants you have taken up. When the young marigolds are six inches high, dig them up and set them out in your garden, wherever they are to stay.

In the same way you can plant

Drummond phlox	Balsam
Tobacco plant	Cosmos
Zinnias	China asters

In the garden, these should stand one foot apart, except Tobacco Plant which needs two feet and Cosmos which should have four feet of garden-room.

Candytuft and mignonette
Don't transplant, or you'll regret;
Morning-glory and nasturtium
Hold transplanting in aversion;
All sweet peas and poppies too
Are of this home-loving crew;
Cornflower and Japan pink,
Coreopsis, too, I think,
Petunia and sweet alyssum,
Moved may die, and then you'll miss 'em!

NASTURTIUMS

It agrees with nasturtiums to be poor. Even with a soil that other plants wouldn't think anything extra in the way of diet, they quit work, don't blossom and just "run to leaves." It almost seems as if the poorer food they had, the happier they are. Therefore if you have only poor soil for your garden, plant nasturtiums and lots of them and perhaps California poppies and mignonette and you will have a gorgeous mass of color. If you want to cover a high board fence with nasturtiums, first nail an inch wide strip of board along the top and another along the bottom of the fence and on this tack chicken-wire. Nasturtiums are not as expert climbers as some vines and can't hold on to string very well. They like lots of sunshine; if the flowers ever find it too hot, they can easily put up a few more of their little Japanese umbrellas of leaves to shelter themselves under.

Don't plant them before May—the 15th is time enough.

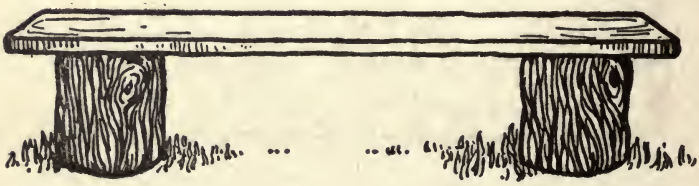
Poke little holes in the ground three inches deep and drop a seed in each one. Cover up, press down and water. After the seedlings are up, pull out some until those you leave stand six inches apart.

These are some of the best kinds:

Dwarf Nasturtiums,
Aurora, King of Tom Thumbs, Ruby King.
(These are the kind to plant in garden-beds.)
Tall Nasturtiums,
Jupiter, Sunlight, Vesuvius.
(These are the kind to climb on a porch or against a fence.)
Lobb's Nasturtiums,
Asa Gray and Lucifer.
(These are the best for porch boxes and window boxes.)

A NASTURTIUM HEDGE

The way to make this is to set brush in a row, just as you set it for sweet peas. On the sunny side of the brush, plant tall nasturtiums and they will climb on the brush with pleasure.



MORNING-GLORIES

"The first instinct of the stems—the instinct of seeking the light, as of the root to seek darkness—what words can speak the wonder of it?" If "the seed falls in the ground with the springing germs of it downwards, with heavenly cunning the taught stem curls around and seeks the never seen light."

—*Ruskin.*

MORNING-GLORIES

Wait until nearly May before planting these. They are all lovely, the Japanese kinds are the showiest. Choose a place which has full morning sun. Have the bed nicely dug and raked smooth.

If you plant the Japanese morning-glories, it is better to soak the seed for two hours in warm water or else you can take a nail file and file a notch in each seed. The shells are very hard and unless you do this the leaves have to use up a great deal of muscle in pushing out.

Poke little holes about one-half inch deep, drop a seed in each one, cover with soil, water well, and when the young plants come up pull out some just as you did with the poppies, until those you leave stand six inches apart.

Morning-glories will climb on wire or you can stretch string for them.

PANSY PLANTS

The easiest way to grow pansies is to buy the plants in April or May or June and set them out in your garden. If the soil is quite rich they will grow well in a shady place, or you can plant them in the full sunshine.

Take your trowel and watering-pot out to the garden and then carry the box or basket with pansies out to the bed in which they are to go. Break the basket or take the little plants carefully out, for the soil about the roots must be disturbed as little as possible. Separate the young plants. Dig a hole with your trowel. Take a little plant in your left hand and hold it in place. Fill in the soil about it with your right hand, just as you planted the rose-bushes.

The little pansies should be set about a foot apart. You can make a bed of them, or use them for an edging. Cut off all the flowers but you needn't cut off the buds.

In just the same way you set out forget-me-nots, geraniums, ageratum,—any of the plants in pots or boxes which you buy in the spring to plant in your garden.

PANSY SEED

In March or early April—as soon as you can, sow the seed in a row in the seed-bed, cover it up about a quarter of an inch, press down and water well.

When the little pansies are up, they must be transplanted, and when they grow big again so that they touch each other, they must be moved again, but the next moving-time should be to the beds in the garden where they are to grow.

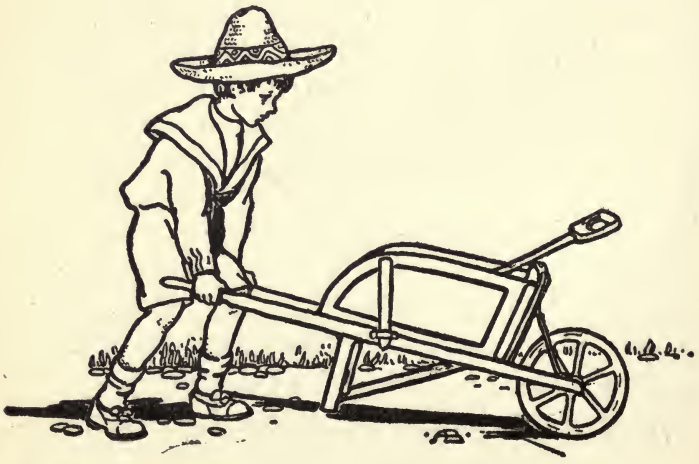
Pansies have a great many pretty names—"Heart's-ease," "That's-for-thoughts"; the very small ones are called "Johnny-jump-ups" and the Germans call the pansy "little step-mother" because the three big petals are like its own children, while the two little petals are the step-children which it crowds out. But for all their pretty names, they are like the people who live in hotels and don't mind any amount of moving about.

Another time to plant pansy-seed is in July or early August. Plant it in just the same way, only in November cover the little plants with manure and straw—what is called "stable-litter," to keep them warm for the winter.

When you take this off in March you may find

the little pansies blooming—sometimes under the snow.

In July or early August, just as you planted the pansies, you can sow seeds of sweet William, hollyhocks, larkspur, Cantérbury bells, forget-me-nots. These will not bloom until next year but by October you will have nice young plants with which you can supply your long-suffering parents.



SNOWDROPS AND CROCUSES

"I know the song that the bluebird is singing
Out in the apple tree where he is swinging:

. . . . . .

"Dear little blossoms down under the snow,
You must be weary of winter, I know;
Hark while I sing you a message of cheer:
Summer is coming. And *springtime* is here.

Little white snowdrop! I pray you arise!
Bright yellow crocus! Come, open your eyes;
Sweet little violets, hid from the cold,
Put on your mantles of purple and gold;
Daffodils! Daffodils! say, do you hear?—
Summer is coming! and *springtime* is here!"

Emily Huntington Miller.

SNOWDROPS AND CROCUSES

The best time to plant these is in early September; the best place to plant them is in the grass, putting each bulb in a hole in the turf, like Mr. Stevenson planted his leaden soldier,* only when the springtime comes, the crocuses and snowdrops will come out themselves as the soldier couldn't.

Don't plant them this way:

as if they marked the corners of squares in a checkerboard, but plant so that they will come up in patches, like the bluets in the pasture grass. One way is to take up an irregularly-shaped piece of sod,† dig the soil underneath with a trowel, make it level and see that it is three inches be-

* In the turf a hole I found
And hid a soldier underground.

. . . . . .

Under grass alone he lies,
Looking up with leaden eyes,
Scarlet coat and pointed gun,
To the stars and to the sun.

† For this it is best to have the permission of a parent or guardian of the turf.

low the surface of the ground; on this set the little bulbs, their noses pointing up like the musket of the lead soldier; they should be about four inches apart. Fill in about them with soil, then carefully lay the sod back again, just as it was before—and you will have a fine surprise for the dandelions—if they wake up in time to see it.

The other way is to poke a little hole in the grass four inches deep and in this set the crocus-bulb.

This is the way you plant

Scilla Siberica, a darling little flower whose small, deep blue bells are the color of the fringed gentian.

Crocuses: white, yellow and blue.

Snowdrops: Get the common snowdrop—no one wants giant snowdrops any more than one wants giant babies.

Chiondoxa (glory of the snow) flowers a little like an anemone, of a pale Delft blue.

Spring snowflake.

All of these flower very early, before the grass has begun to get green. If you can keep the grown-ups from having the lawn mowed until the leaves of your bulbs begin to fade, they will blossom year after year. If you can't they won't.

TULIPS

"Dance, yellows, whites and reds,
Lead your gay orgy, leaves, stalks, heads
Astir with the wind in the tulip beds."

Robert Browning.

TULIPS AND OTHER BULBS

Unless in the autumn, some one gives you the bulbs, you won't be likely to have a spring garden. October to April is such a long time to wait! But you might forget the bulbs and have them for a surprise.

If you want to plant a solid bed of bulbs then take off the soil until the bed is level and four inches below the surface set the bulbs down carefully, each on a little cushion of sand, their noses pointing upward. Fill in around them with soil, press it down and the work is done. In this way you can plant hyacinths, tulips, etc.

If you are planting them in groups in your garden or making a row along the edge of the bed, then make a hole six inches deep, set the bulb in this and fill it up.

When late November comes, give your bulb bed a covering of dead leaves.

In just the same way, you can plant

Daffodils.
Jonquils.
Hyacinths.
Poet's narcissus.

A SUNFLOWER HEDGE

Get a package of miniature sunflowers. Their baptismal name, which you will have to call them if you want to be sure to get the right thing, is *Helianthus cucumerifolius.* Early May is the time to sow the seed; sow it thickly in a row, just where you want the hedge to be, and by July you will have a hedge four feet high, covered with yellow flowers. Cut the flowers all you like and the sunflowers will bloom finely.

THE LITTLE FLOWER-GARDENER'S TIME-TABLE

The very best clock to set your garden-watch by, is some old gardener in your neighborhood who always has plenty of lovely flowers. Make friends with him if you can. If you can't, hang over his fence and watch him. When you see him setting out plants from his hot-beds, then you will know that it is warm enough to sow nasturtiums or plant corn or anything that is marked in catalogues "tender annual."

Old gardeners sometimes seem cross because they make the mistake of thinking that the boys or girls who hang over their fence and look at their flowers, are the fierce creatures who step on the baby plants in their flower-beds and tear branches off their shrubs, when it is probably an ignorant grown-up who has done the mischief. If a gardener knows that you really love the plants and want to learn how to make them grow, he will usually be very glad to tell you if it is warm enough to plant your morning-glories.

This time-table is for gardens in the latitude of New York. If you are farther south, then take your geography and count how many hundred miles south of New York you are and subtract six days for every hundred miles. If you

are farther north, add six days. This makes an interesting arithmetic example.

But Mother Nature is very like some railroads. She doesn't stick to schedule time at all and, as I said, the very best way is to keep a lookout on some particularly pretty garden and when you see the gardener planting his seed, you plant yours.

LITTLE FLOWER-GARDENER'S TIME-TABLE

NAME	WHEN TO START (about)	LATER TIME	WHEN IT BLOOMS
Balsam	May 1	June 1	July to middle Sept.
Bean Vine	Apr. 20-30		
California Poppy	March		June until frost
Candytuft	Apr. 20		June until frost
China Asters	Apr. 20-30	May 10-15	July until frost
Chionodoxa	Sept.	Oct.	Feb., Mar.
Coreopsis	Apr. 20	May 10	July to Nov.
Cornflower	Apr. 1-20	May 1-10	June, July,
Cosmos	Apr. 20	May 1-10	Sept. to frost
Crocus	Sept.	Oct.	Feb., Mar.
Drummond's Phlox	Mar.	Apr. 10	July until frost
Easter Lily	August		Christmas
" "	November		Easter
Gourds	May 1	May 15	Aug.
Golden Glow	Mar. 20-30	Oct. 15	Sept.
Hollyhock	Plants Mar. Apr.	Sow in July for next year	July
Hyacinth	Oct.	Nov., Dec.	May
" in house	"	" "	Feb., Mar.

LITTLE FLOWER-GARDNER'S TIME-TABLE — Continued.

NAME	WHEN TO START (about)	LATER TIME	WHEN IT BLOOMS
Larkspur	'Apr. 15	Sow in July for next year	
Lily-of-the-Valley	Mar. or soon as you can	Nov.	May
Marigolds (Pot)	Mar. 25–30	'Apr. 1	
Marigolds French / " African	'Apr. 25	May 1–8, June	July until Oct.
Mignonette	Mar. or soon as you can	'Apr. 1, May 1, June 1	July, Aug., Sept.
Narcissus Jonquils / Daffodils	Sept. Oct.	Nov.	'Apr., May.
Narcissus (in pots)	Sept. Oct.	Nov., Feb.	Dec., Mar.
Nasturtiums	Apr. 25,	May 1	July until Oct.
Morning-Glory	Apr. 15–30		July until frost
Pansies (sow seed)	Mar.	15 July (for next year)	July until frost
" set out	'Apr.	May, June	May until Nov.
Petunias	'Apr. 15–30.		June to Nov.
Pinks	Apr. 15-30		July until frost
Phlox (hardy)	Mar. 25, Sept.		July, Aug.
Poppies	Mar. or soon as you can	'Apr.	June, July
Portulaca	May.		July, Aug.
Scilla	Oct.		Feb., Mar.
Snowdrops	Oct.		" "
Sunflowers	May 1–15	May 20	
Sweet Alyssum	'Apr. 1–15	'Apr. 30	May, Nov.
Sweet Peas	Mar. or soon as you can		June, Oct.
Tulips	Oct.	Nov.	April-May
Tobacco Plant	Apr. 15	'Apr. 30	July, Oct.
Zinnia	May 1–8	June 1–8	July, Oct.

SONG OF THE TOAD

Oh, let no naughty, wicked child throw little stones at me!
I'm watchman for the flowers and from harm I keep them free.
Any horrid, prowling insect that at night would cause alarm,

Is neatly swallowed down by me—put where he does no harm.
I'm better than the hired man at catching noisome slugs,
I dine at night on cut-worms and I breakfast on rose-bugs.
The thorniest caterpillar, he is safe inside of me,

And worms and insects—any kind—I eat them all
with glee.
So place for me a cool, flat stone—a hollow under it,
And here whene'er the sun is hot, I'll comfortably sit
(I'll earn my board and lodging—pay you ample
rent for it).
And let no naughty boy or girl throw wicked stones
at me,
I'm the watchman for your flowers and you'd best
be nice, you see.

SONG OF THE WATERING-POT

This is the song of the Watering-Pot,
"Don't use me when the sun is hot;
Wait until he has gone away,
Fill me with water at close of day;
Then soak your plants and soak again,
Soak and soak, till they think it's rain,
Soak till each root gets all it wants—
That's the way to water your plants!

"Next morning loosen the earth on top
So the moisture below will stop;
Then hang me up on a nail quite high,
Don't use me again till the soil is dry."

STAY-AT-HOME PLANTS

Candytuft and mignonette,
Don't transplant or you'll regret.
Morning-glory and nasturtium
Hold transplanting in aversion.
All sweet peas and poppies too
Are of this home-loving crew.
Cornflower and Japan pink,
Coreopsis, too, I think,
Petunia and sweet alyssum,
Moved may die and then you'll miss 'um!

MARKET GARDENING

"The chief of my care is my farming-affair
To make my corn grow and my apple-trees bear."
—*Old Song.*

BUSH BEANS

"Let them pass as they will too soon
With the bean-flowers' boon
And the blackbird's tune
And May, and June."

—*Robert Browning.*

" It was one of the most bewitching sights in the world to observe a hill of beans thrusting aside the soil."

—*Hawthorne.*

BUSH-BEANS

About the first of May, if the ground is warm and there is no danger from frost, you can plant your beans. It is best even then to choose a sheltered spot. It must be well dug and manured slightly. Rake the bed smooth, and lay a board down for a ruler. With a sharp stick draw a line alongside it, making a little furrow two inches deep. In this drop the beans, three inches apart, cover over, press down, and water. Make your next row one and a half or two feet from this one.

You can plant beans every two weeks all summer, and so have a supply of fresh young beans; but when you are planting in hot weather, remember to plant the seed a little deeper, three inches instead of two, and water before you cover the beans with soil.

THE LATE RISERS

Beans and cucumbers, melons, corn—
Don't plant these till the weather's warm;
Squash and tomato, pumpkins, too,
Early sowing for these won't do!

POLE BEANS OR LIMA BEANS

First plant your poles. They should be eight or nine feet long and may be set up in various interesting positions. You can have them down each side of a path and make a bean-walk. You can tie a stick across the tops and make a bean pergola. You can set them up like tripods, or put them in a row or use them for a screen.

Wait until the weather is really warm before planting—the fifteenth or twentieth of May is time enough for Lima beans. Draw up the soil about the pole until it makes a little mound three inches high. In this plant your beans two inches deep, six to each pole. When they are well up, pull out the weaker seedlings, leaving only three.

If the beans don't grow from the first planting try another crop in June.

PARSLEY, BEETS, CARROTS, TURNIPS, PARSNIPS

"And where the marjoram once, and sage and rue,
And balm and mint, with curled-leaf parsley grew."

PARSLEY, BEETS, CARROTS, TURNIPS, PARSNIPS

As soon as the ground can be dug you can plant your early vegetables—beets, carrots, turnips, parsnip, parsley.

The best soil is a rather light and sandy one; have it well dug, raked smooth, and make a little furrow two inches deep, just as you did for beans. In this drop the seed, cover, press down, and water well and your beets are planted. The rows should be a foot and a half or two feet apart.

When the little plants are up, pull out the crowding one until those you leave stand five inches apart. Young beets you can take to the kitchen to be used as spinach if you pull them up when the beet is only as large as a hickory nut. If you have a pony, he will think young carrots nicer than the nicest sort of candy.

You can sow every two week, then you will have fresh vegetables coming along steadily.

RADISHES

"And then they planted cabbages,
Potatoes, corn and radishes."

—*Gov. Bradford.*

RADISHES

Make the rows eight or ten inches apart. The soil should be firm and light and rich. Sow the seed and cover just as you did your marigolds. Radishes can be sown every ten days until June, then it is a little too warm and you must wait until August before sowing again. Be careful not to let your radishes grow too large before you market them. The smaller ones are more palatable.

If you want to grow big radishes, try the Japanese Sakurajima. This, in its native country, is 43 inches around the waist.

LETTUCE

Don't let your lettuce pine for a drink;
It likes water oftener than you think.

LETTUCE

As soon as you can make their bed soft and mellow you can plant lettuce. Sow the seed thinly in a row, just as you planted radishes. Cover the seed, press down and water. In two weeks sow another row. Big Boston is perhaps the best sort for earliest sowing and for sowing in the autumn. "Hanson" is good for warmer weather.

When the first little seedlings are well up, pull out the little plants, leaving only the sturdiest to stand—ten or twelve inches apart. Take the baby lettuce plants to the house and they will make a delightful salad. If you like you can set out the little plants instead.

You can sow lettuce every two weeks until July, when it is rather hot to grow it well. When the middle of August comes sow again, and sow twice in September.

DROUGHT WATERING

Dig a furrow with your hoe
In the space between each row.
Next you run the water in it;
Let it stand and soak a minute.
Roots will think there's been a rain
When you fill it up again.
Put back the soil and laugh at drought.
The sun can't find this watering out.

PEAS

Garden peas, like sweet peas, should go in the soil as early as you can get them. Make a furrow four inches deep and in this drop the seeds one inch apart. Cover and press down. The next row should be four feet from this one. These are early peas. Don't sow wrinkled peas until the ground is quite warm, in May.

In August you can plant early peas again.

CORN

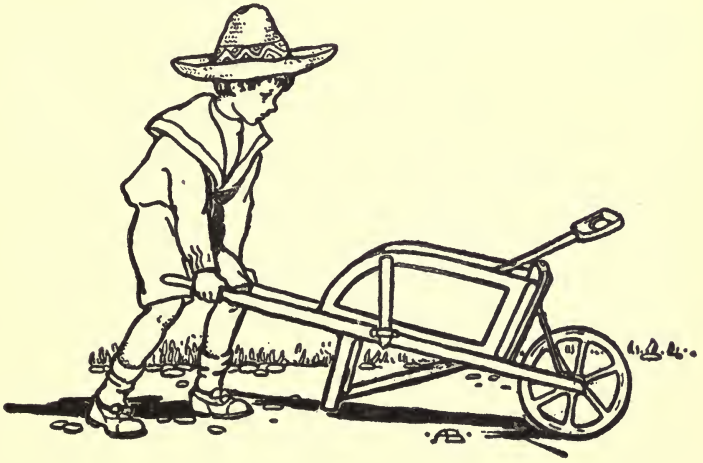
"Day by day did Hiawatha
Go to wait and watch beside it:
. . . . . .
Till at length a small green feather
From the earth shot slowly upward,
Then another and another,
And before the summer ended,
Stood the maize in all its beauty,
With its shining robes around it,
And its long, soft, yellow tresses,
And in rapture Hiawatha
Cried aloud, It is Mondamin."

CORN

Before planting your corn, wait until the weather is quite warm—about the 15th or the 20th of May.

Sow in hills, three feet apart each way, putting five or six kernels in each hill. As soon as the blades are up, hoeing can begin, and here is a cheerful occupation for you. It should be hoed once a week—oftener, if you like. When hoeing, draw the soil up around the stems. You can sow corn at intervals of two or three weeks until the Fourth of July.

The best kinds are Country Gentleman and Stowell's Evergreen.



·ADA·BUDELL·

MUSKMELONS

This is also the way to plant squashes, cucumbers, pole, or Lima beans.

If you have sandy soil, it is easy enough to grow muskmelons, and this is the way to do it.

Make little hills, five feet part from each other each way—the hills should be about three inches higher than the surface of the ground. In these plant your seed; sow eight or ten seeds in each hill. When the little plants are up, before they begin to crowd each other, you must murder the innocents; pull out the weaker ones until there are left only three seedlings on each hill.

Various insects are fond of muskmelon leaves. The way to get the best of these is to get up early in the morning and, while the dew is on the leaves, dust lime or ashes on them. This won't hurt the melons, but it will discourage the insects who had thought of breakfasting on them.

In just the same way you plant cucumbers and squashes and pole-beans.

When you plant squashes, remember to plant them a long way off from your melon patch. Mother Nature sometimes plays practical jokes on gardeners and lets the wind blow the pollen dust from the flowers of one to the flowers of the other, and "mixes the babies up" as Buttercup did in Pinafore. The squashes do not taste so badly, but the melons!

GARDEN WARFARE

Don't wait to fight insects till plenty come;
Kill the first, and the second brood stays at home.

GROWING JACK O'LANTERNS

If you grow your own Jack O'Lanterns, about Hallowe'en you will find yourself very popular. It would be a good idea to give a garden party the day before, inviting your friends to come and bring their jack-knives. You could give each one a pumpkin and let him carve his own.

All you have to do is to remember to sow the seed at the end of May in the corn-patch, between the hills of corn. Plant four seeds to a hill, and have the hills ten feet apart. When the corn has past, the pumpkins will be on hand to occupy the ground.

THE WELL-ARMED GARDENER

I've Bordeaux for all kinds of rot;
For mildew in potato;
For white-spots on my melon leaves
And blight on my tomato.

Pyrethrum for the cabbage-worm
And for his lettuce fellows;
White hellebore for currant-worms
(This is applied with bellows).

For thrips and aphides, mites and lice,
I have tobacco water.
And in a pan of oil I drop
Each rose-bug (when I've caught her).

The melon leaves I dust with lime
To check each insect-sinner;
My gayly-striped potato-bugs
Have Paris green for dinner.

I give the insects first a word
Of kind and friendly warning,
Which, if they do not take, why thus
I kill them the next morning.

TOMATOES

The easiest way to grow tomatoes is to buy the plants in late May and set them out just as you plant pansies, except that they must be in the sun.

If you want to grow them all yourself, then in February plant the seed in boxes—flat boxes about three inches deep and filled with light, sandy soil. If you haven't boxes, you can use old strawberry baskets or tin cans (with holes punched in the bottom for drainage) or anything. Put the boxes in a sunny window.

When warm weather comes, set out the plants, putting them in hills four feet apart each way. The best way to manage tomato vines (which are undeniably limp) is to tie each vine to a four- or five-foot stake. Or, if you prefer, you can make a trellis for them like a miniature grape trellis, and tie them to this; they will then make a more imposing appearance.

Once a week cultivate or hoe your tomatoes.

Keep the fruit picked. Even if your family and friends have abundance and you can find no one to take all your supply, pick it and throw away; for if you let the tomatoes decay on the vines, they will stop bearing, just as cornflowers and sweet peas do.

LITTLE MARKET GARDENER'S TIME TABLE

	First Start	Later	Latest Sowing	First Crop Ready for Market
Bush Beans	May 1	May 20	July 15	July
Lima Beans	May 15	June		August
Beet	March 15	April	July	June
Carrot	April	April	July	July
Cabbage	April	May	June 1	August
Corn	April 15	May 30	July 15	July
Cucumber	May 15	May 30	July (for pickles)	July
Lettuce	March	April	October	End May
Melon	May 1	May 15	June	September 1
Parsley	March	April		June
Parsnip	April	April		August
Peas	March	April	August	June
Pumpkin	May 1	May 15	May 30	September 1
Radish	March	April	August	April
Squash	May 1	May 15	May 30	September
Tomato	February indoors	May 1	June (set out)	
Turnip	April	May	July (for fall)	July

INDOOR GARDENING

PLANTING SEEDS

When the sun has gone away,
That's the proper time of day;
If you plant the seed too deep,
Then the leaves may never peep.
Seeds four times their depth must go—
That is, if they are to grow.

Keep the ground stirred in your garden-plot,
It's better than too-much-watering-pot.

WHERE TO PLANT THE WINDOW GARDEN

If your mother lets you have a window garden, before you get your plants or before she gives you any, be sure you find out what window it is you are to have. The best is a sunny south window. Here you can grow almost anything. Next best is an east window. This has the morning sun, but even if you have a west window or a north window you can have some sort of a garden. A kitchen window is a very good place for a window garden, for the plants like the steam from the cooking.

In a north window, you can grow English ivy, cyclamen, Boston fern and bulbs, like narcissus.

In a south window, you can grow geraniums, heliotropes, azaleas, and almost any kind of flowering plant.

NARCISSUS IN STONES AND WATER

Get some bulbs of paper-white narcissus. For the stones, if you haven't any, you can buy a quart of pebbles for ten cents. Any kind of a bowl or deep dish will do. Put about one inch of pebbles in the bottom. Set the bulbs on this —as many as the dish will hold. Fill in around them with pebbles, enough to keep the bulbs in place. Then pour in water, until it barely touches the bottom of the bulbs. Set the dish in a cool, dark place for two weeks, until plenty of roots have formed; then bring it to the light but don't put it yet in a sunny window—wait until the leaves are well up and the flower stalks and the white petals begin to push out. Then put the bowl in the sunshine and it will flower beautifully.

This is one way you can grow Roman hyacinths, jonquils, yellow mammoth crocuses, Chinese lily. But the paper-white narcissi are the easiest and surest. The Chinese lily you have to be sure to keep warm.

WATERING PLANTS

When you water your plants, pour in until the water runs out of the pot at the bottom. Let the water stand in the saucer about fifteen minutes; some of it will be taken up again. Then pour off what is left.

These are thirsty plants: Azaleas, heliotrope, bulbs when coming into flower, Boston fern and asparagus fern.

Keep a pan filled with water in the shelf with your plants.

HYACINTHS IN WATER

For this, the first things to get are the hyacinth bulbs, the next, the hyacinth glasses. Don't buy "double hyacinths," the single ones are best for growing in this way. Hyacinth glasses have a cup-shaped place at the top which holds the bulb, but lets the roots go down to the water. Dark-colored glasses are best—roots always dislike light.

Fill the glasses with water, which must almost, not quite, touch the bulb. Put a small lump of charcoal in each glass. Then set them away in a cool, dark place to stay for a month or more, until the glass is well filled with roots.

Then bring the glass to the light just as you brought the tulip bulbs.

In the same way you can grow mammoth yellow crocuses, Duc van Thol tulips, narcissus.

THIS IS THE WAY TO TRAIN A GERANIUM

When the little plant is five inches high, cut off the top. This will make it branch out. When the branches are five or six inches long, cut them off until they are only three inches. This will make them branch out. Keep on this way until your plant has lots of branches, like a tree has, instead of one or two long thin ones, when it will flower from twenty or thirty different places instead of only from one or two.

When the soil is dry, give the plant a good soaking. Give it water until it runs out of the bottom of the pot, then don't water again until the soil is dry. But whenever you can do it, take the plant to the kitchen sink and give it a shower bath.

Geraniums like sunshine.

HOW TO GROW GERANIUMS

In October, when your mother brings her plants indoors, probably she "cuts back" her geraniums. If she doesn't, she ought. You can use the pieces cut off to make little geraniums out of, and if you take good care of them in the spring your geraniums will be better geraniums than your mother's. This will give you a pleased and proud feeling.

First get something — a pot or a tin can; fill this with sand; then take the little pieces of geranium stalk and cut them off just below a joint or where a leaf starts. Snip the lower leaves off short.

Cut off the tops of the upper leaves. This will make them stop thinking about growing for a while and the roots can have time to get strong. Take an old jack-knife and make a hole with it in the damp sand. Set your cutting in this—don't push it in—that cut end is very sensitive and you mustn't bruise it.

POTTING TULIPS, DAFFODILS, HYACINTHS

When September comes or early October, you can "put up" tulips and hyacinths in pots as your mother puts up preserves to have ready to bring out from time to time during the winter. They can all be "put up" at once, put in a cool place for storage and brought out one by one, so that no matter how your mother's window garden flourishes, you will have something in bloom from Thanksgiving to March.

First get your bulbs. Next find the pots or boxes to put them in. You can use flat bulb-pans. The flowers look prettiest in these or ordinary flowerpots, or else shallow wooden boxes, three inches deep and of any size you please.

Next comes the soil. This should be sand and garden loam—be sure there is quite a bit of sand in it. Put a half-inch layer of broken crock in the pot for drainage. Then put a layer of soil—then set the tulip bulbs on this; fill in all around them till the soil is within one-half inch of the top of the pot. The noses of the bulbs should be just at the top of the soil. Jar the pot to shake it down—don't press it, water well and then your "preserves" are ready to be put away.

Set the pots either in a cool dark cellar, or

else dig a hole two feet deep, put three inches of ashes in the bottom to keep out the worms. On this set the pot of bulbs—fill in with soil, bank the top with three inches of manure and straw to keep the ground from freezing so that you can't dig out your pots.

In just this way you can plant

Narcissus.
Daffodils.
Hyacinths.
Tulips.
Miniature Hyacinths.

But hyacinths like to have more than the tips of their noses out of the soil; they like to have their shoulders out, too. So when you plant them, remember to leave one-third of the bulb uncovered.

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF A BOSTON FERN

If your mother's Boston fern looks unhappy and bedraggled, get her to give it to you. Very likely she has set it somewhere in the drawing-room or hall where she thought it looked pretty, but where the poor thing didn't have much light and air. This is the sort of thing grown people are very apt to do to plants.

First cut off any leaves that are turning yellow. Cut them off at the base and burn them. Next fill the bath-tub half full of water, and set the pot in this, so that the water comes over the rim. If your mother thinks this hard on the porcelain of the tub, take a tin wash-boiler, or a pail, set the plant in it and fill up with water that has had the chill taken off it. Let the plant stay half an hour and drink all it can. Probably this is the first good drink it has had for a long time.

Sprinkle with a syringe—if you haven't one, take a whisk-broom, dip it in the water and shake over the fern until the leaves are wet.

Then find a comfortable place for it. A Boston fern likes a cool room and prefers an east or north window; it needs light, but not sunshine. Shower the leaves every day, soak it thoroughly once a week and water twice a week.

MAKING PLANTS FROM LEAVES

This is lots of fun. If you can get your mother to cut off a leaf from a rubber plant or a begonia (one of the gorgeous-leaved begonias), you can make plants out of them. Cut off the top half of the rubber-tree leaf, and put the lower part in the sand, the leaf standing upright, as if it were a sail, and it will grow; that is all.

Lay the begonia leaf flat on the sand. Get some toothpicks and pin the leaf down to the sand with them, sticking them through at the ribs. This makes lots of little plants—they start where the leaf is broken. Or else you can tear the leaf and set it upright, the torn edge in the damp sand, and little plants will grow from this.

When they have started and are growing nicely, pot them just as you potted the geraniums, only the begonias don't like so much sunlight. They are happiest in a rather cool room and an east window.

Then press the sand around it closely. You can put eight or ten cuttings like this in one pot. Set the pot in the shade for three days, then in the sunlight—keep the sand moist.

When the little plants are beginning to grow, when you see little leaves sprouting, then you must "pot" them.

First, have little three-inch pots ready and some soil. This you can get from a florist for a few cents. Take the little plants out carefully —don't pull them out—stick the old knife in the soil a little way from the plant stem and pry out the infant—you mustn't hurt the roots.

Hold the little plant in your left hand so that it is in the middle of the pot. Fill in with soil with your right hand—just as you planted the rose bush. Then press down, water well, and let the young geraniums stand in the shade for a few days, then give them the sunshine again.

Plants which are very easy to start in the same way are abutilon, begonia.

EASTER LILY

This is one of the loveliest plants to grow. In October get your bulbs.

Take a five-inch pot; in this put some drainage material, then a layer of soil, four inches below the top of the pot. On this set the brown lily bulb and just cover it with soil. Put it in a cool place in the cellar. In about two weeks the stalk will begin to push up, then fill in about it with soil, Keep on doing this, filling up with soil as fast as the stalk comes up, until the pot is filled to within one-half inch of the top—that is plenty. By the middle of January you can bring the pots to the light. Put them in a cool room and spray the foliage often. If Easter is getting near and you want to hurry the flower, bring it into a warm room and the sunlight.

If you would like to have the lily in blossom at Christmas, then pot it in early August, treat it just the same way, and in early October bring it into the house. This makes a very lovely Christmas present.

MAKING SHRUB-BRANCHES BLOSSOM

In February, if the hired man prunes forsythias and deutzias—as he oughtn't to do—collect the branches, put them in water in a cool room and not in the sunlight. In a little while the buds will begin to swell and show color. Then put the jar in a sunny window and in about a week they will be in full blossom.

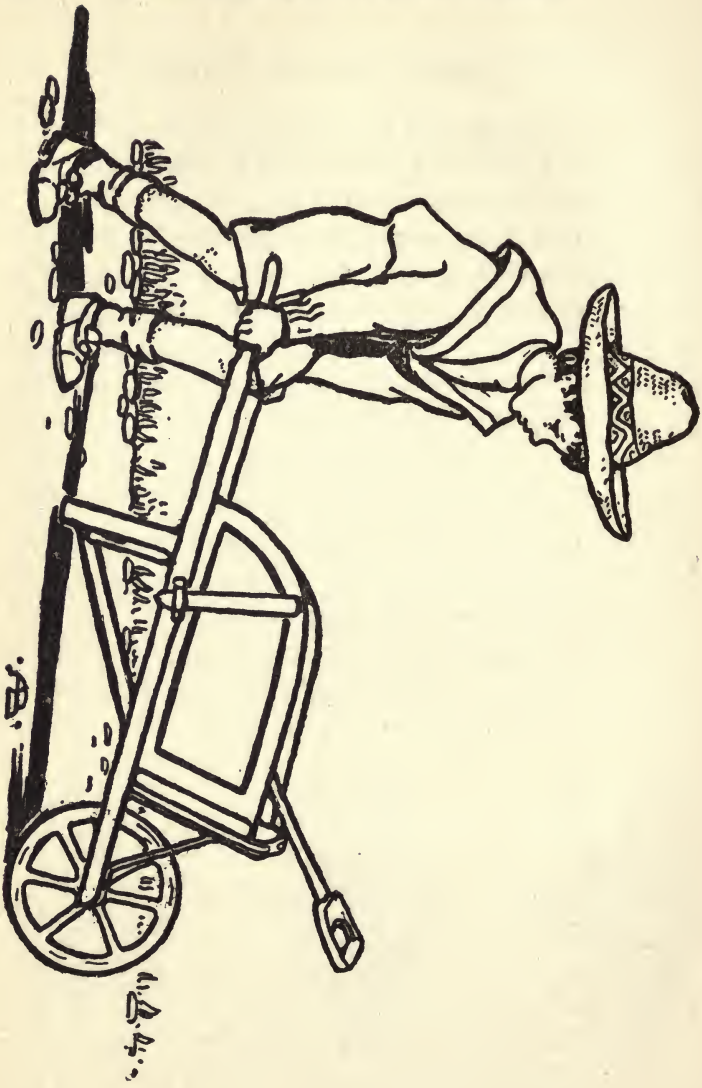
GARDEN PLANTS FOR THE WINDOW BOX

In late September or October, look over your garden and you may find some plants which will do nicely for your window box.

Here are some annuals which would die in a little while that, if you take up, will be glad to bloom for you for a little while, at least. Stocks, astors, tobacco plant, pansies, marigolds, sweet alyssum. Pick out the smaller plants, ones that have not bloomed very much.

Give the plants a thorough soaking. Five hours afterward dig them up carefully. Have the pot or box ready—then dig up your plant, try to get up all the roots. Pot it carefully, just as you potted the geranium cuttings.

Next, cut back the plant and set it in the shade for a few days. Afterwards you can bring it to the light and it will go on blooming.



GARDEN ACCESSORIES

"In the garden lay supinely
A huge giant wrought of spade;
Arms and legs were stretched at length
In a passive giant strength,—
The meadow turf, cut finely,
Round them laid and interlaid.

Call him Hector, son of Priam!
Such his title and degree,
With my rake I smoothed his brow,
Both his cheeks I weeded through;
But a rhymer such as I am,
Scarce can sing his dignity.

Eyes of gentianella azure,
Staring, winking at the skies;
Nose of gillyflowers and box;
Scented grasses put for locks,
Which a little breeze at pleasure
Set a-waving round his eyes.

Brazen helm of daffodillies
With a glitter toward the light;
Purple violets for the mouth,
Breathing perfumes west and south;
And a sword of flashing lilies,
Holden ready for the fight.

And a breastplate made of daisies,
Closely fitting, leaf on leaf;
Periwinkles interlaced
Drawn for belt around the waist;
While the brown bees, humming praises,
Shot their arrows round the chief."

Hector in the Garden.—ELIZ. BROWNING.

HERE ARE SOME EASY GARDEN BEDS

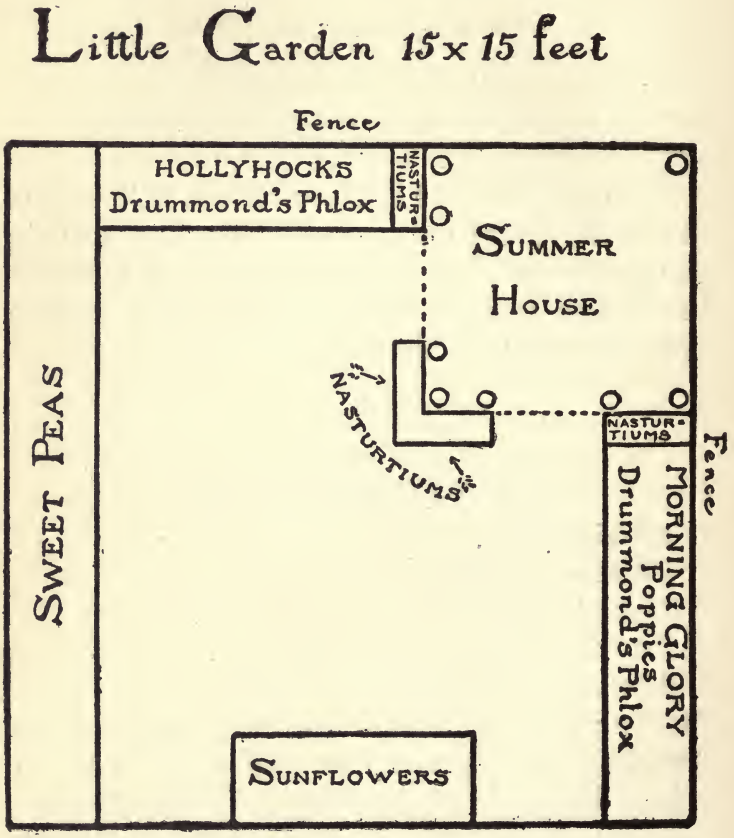
TOBACCO PLANT
DWARF NASTURTIUMS
EDGING OF DWARF FRENCH MARIGOLDS

The tobacco plant is the tallest, so that goes at the back. Next comes a row of dwarf nasturtiums and last the little edging of marigolds. If the bed is very wide, you can put a row of sunflowers behind the tobacco plant.

ANOTHER GARDEN BED

Zinnias
Shirley poppies
Cornflowers
Edging of sweet alyssum.

First sow the Shirley poppies and the cornflowers; these you can sow very early. Then sow the zinnias in rows six inches apart and the little edging of sweet alyssum. When the poppies have gone by, you can pull them up, dig up some of the zinnias and put them in their places.

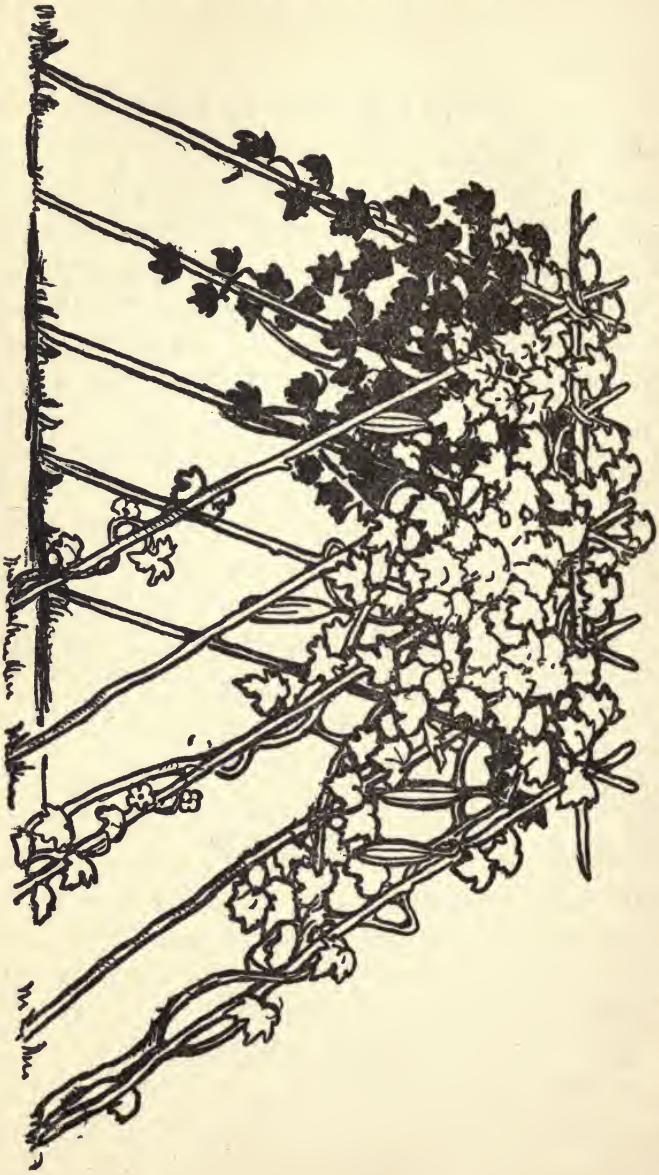


Plan of Little Garden

LITTLE GARDEN 15x15 FEET

This little garden is in the corner of a back-yard. A bed of sunflowers screens it on one side, a hedge of sweet peas makes the other boundary. The little summerhouse is made by a post at the outside corner where the nasturtiums are and this is connected at the top with the two sides of the fence. Strips of wire netting, a foot wide, fastened to the ground with staples and nailed to the crosspiece at the top, make the walls of the playhouse.

The first thing to plant for this little garden beside the post for the playhouse is a hedge of sweet peas and the poppies. Then you can set out hollyhock plants against the fence. A little later in April, plant the Drummond's phlox, and in May plant your nasturtiums, morning-glories and the tall sunflowers. The grass space in the middle, and the summerhouse will give you room enough to entertain your friends.



Garden Arbor

GARDEN PLAYHOUSES

An easy kind of garden playhouse is made of poles, such as beans are used to climb on. Set them up in tent-fashion. Stick the poles into the ground, a foot apart, and secure them with cord at the top to a crosspole. The poles can be as long as you like—the longer the poles, the larger playhouse you can make. At the foot of each alternate pole, plant ornamental gourds—just as you plant melons—and early May is the time to do this.

There are a great many kind of gourds which you might use. There is the squirting cucumber, dipper, dishcloth, mock-orange, Hercules club. They grow up very fast and cover anything very quickly.

You can use other vines to cover your playhouse, such as nasturtiums and scarlet runner beans, but they will not make so tight a roof as the gourds.

Another easy playhouse you can make with poles is made like an Indian wigwam. Draw a circle as large as you want the playhouse to be. Plant the poles at its outer edge a foot and a half apart, leaving, of course, space for a door, and then fasten them together at the top. At the foot of each pole, you can sow scarlet runner beans or ornamental gourds; these will cover your playhouse.

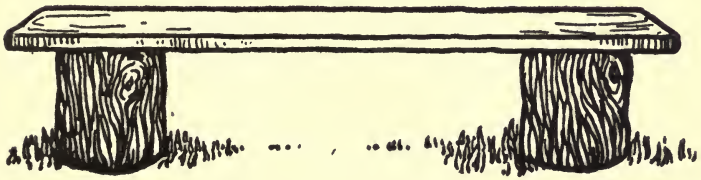
GARDEN FURNITURE

Of course, you will like to entertain your friends in your garden. If there is a shady spot where plants don't grow very well, that's a good place for a seat.

GARDEN BENCHES

If you live in the country, here is an easy way to make a garden bench. Take two "chunks," logs that have been sawed (they are usually a foot long), ready for splitting. Pick out two that are the same length and which have been sawed evenly—so that if you stand them up on end the tops will be flat. Tote them out to the place in the garden where you want them and see how long your seat ought to be, standing one for one end and one for the other. Then find a board, nail it on top.

The easiest place to make a seat in a city back-yard is against the fence and in the corner. Take the shady corner and put the board like a shelf, resting one edge on the ledge of the fence. Nail it there and make legs to support the front edge. You can call this an exedra if you like.



GARDEN TABLES

You can find a good-sized "chunk" with a nice flat top. On this you can nail your table top—boards fastened together to form a square, or if you prefer a round table, use a barrel-head for a top. A piece of drain tile stood on end can be used instead of the "chunk."

A Garden Table

SWINGING TABLE

This is another table that dispenses with the troublesome and uncertain four legs. This can be swung from a tree if the branch is low enough. First make your table top. Two cleats on the under side of a packing-box cover makes a good one. Bore a hole in each corner of the top. Take two pieces of rope that will fit the holes. Sling them over the branch, then fasten an end of each to one side of the table. Push the other ends through the opposite holes and pull the ropes through until the table is the right height—just as you adjust a swing. Add a Japanese lantern for decoration.

For such a table in a back-yard garden, you can lay a pole or nail a support in place across the corner of the fence. When not in use, such a table can be hauled up out of the way.

GIVING THE PLANTS AIR

In the middle of the day, when it is warm, open the windows and let the plants have some air. More plants suffer from lack of it than you have any idea of.

GIVING HOUSE PLANTS A BATH

Plants are like children; they need air and light and they also need plenty of washing.

If your mother has been thoughtful enough to put a piece of oil-cloth over the floor in front of your window garden, then you can give your plants a bath very easily. If you have a syringe, squirt water with it over them every day, especially on the under sides of the leaves. This will keep them nice and clean and you won't have much bother with insects; or, you can take each plant to the kitchen sink and sprinkle it thoroughly there with a syringe or a whisk-broom. It is well to have your mother's or the cook's permission for this.

About once in two weeks, your plant family ought to have a bath in soap and water. Take a tin wash-boiler or deep dish-pan, fill it with lukewarm water and make a strong suds with white laundry soap. Take your plants, one by one, and hold each one firmly by the pot and dip it head downward in the water. Afterwards sprinkle with clear water. This is about the easiest way of giving them a bath.

INSECTS

There are two kinds of insects that worry a gardener. There are those that can be killed by shooting at them with a syringe charged with some destructive stuff, as soldiers attack a town with shot and shell.

But there are others that have such fine armor and such hard shell on their little backs, that you can shoot anything you like and unless it is strong enough to kill the plants, it doesn't hurt them. To meet these you have to put something on their food which, if they eat it, will kill them. Then you wait and see if they eat it; if you like you can sing:

"Dilly, dilly, dilly, dilly, come and be killed," as Mrs. Bond sang to her ducks.

THE INSECTS YOU CAN SHOOT AT ARE THESE:	THIS IS WHAT YOU SHOOT THEM WITH:
Plant lice.	Tobacco water.
Red spiders.	Clean water.
Mealy bugs.	Soap and water.
Green hollyhock bug.	Tobacco water.
Red aphis on sweet peas.	Tobacco water.

THE INSECTS YOU MUST PERSUADE TO KILL THEMSELVES:	WHAT YOU GIVE THEM TO EAT:
Green lettuce worm.	Pyrethrum.
Rose-slugs.	Hellebore.
Cabbage worm.	Pyrethrum.

Rose bugs you will have to pick off with your fingers and drop in a pan of kerosene.

Cutworms you have to look for just under the surface near the stalk of the plant and kill them yourself, or you can make a deep hole with a sharp stick near the plant and the guileless cutworms will fall into this during the night and in the morning you can get them out and kill them or use them for fishing.

THE EARLY RISERS

"The Early Bird catches the worm;
The Early Gardener, the market."

The Early Gardener first sows these—
Parsley, lettuce, and smooth-shelled pease,
Cabbage, turnip, radish, beet,
And (his planting to complete),
Parsnip, potatoes, carrots, he
Gets in the ground as soon as may be.

THE WISE GARDENER

The morning after a heavy rain
The gardener takes his hoe again,
Loosens the soil between the rows,
And the moisture will stay at the roots he knows.

CULTIVATION

To hoe or cultivate once a week
Makes veg'tables cheerful and keeps the weeds meek.

A BULB'S REQUIREMENTS

A hole that is just four times as deep
As I myself am tall;
A cushion of sand to sit upon,
And right side up—that is all.

My nose must be pointing to the air,
My base to the ground below;
Cover with earth and leave me alone,
And when spring comes—watch me grow!

THE MEDICINE CHEST

"On every stem, on every leaf, and on both sides of it, and at the root of everything that grew, was a professional specialist in the shape of a gnat, caterpillar, aphis, or other expert, whose business it was to devour that particular part and help murder the whole attempt at vegetation."

—*Oliver Wendell Holmes.*

HOW TO PREPARE MEDICINES

Pyrethrum: There are three brands of this; you can use any of them. They are called Persian Insect Powder, Dalmatian Insect Powder, and Buhach. Before you sprinkle on the powder, mix it with three parts of flour. That is, take one teaspoonful of the powder and three teaspoonfuls of flour, mix well together and dust on the leaves when they are wet.

Tobacco Tea or Tobacco Water: Take one-half pound of ground tobacco—the cheapest you can buy (don't use your father's; the plants wouldn't like it, and he mightn't like it). Pour on this two quarts of boiling water. Let it stand until cool. Then take a syringe and spray the plants with this. If you haven't a syringe, take a whisk-broom, dip it in and shake it over the plants.

White Hellebore: Be sure the hellebore is fresh. Dust it on the plants when the leaves are wet.

Soap and water: Cut in thin pieces a quarter of a pound of Ivory soap, pour a quart of water over this and set on the stove to dissolve. When dissolved, put in a wash-boiler and add five gallons of water. Syringe the plants with this or dip them in it.

THE TOOL BOX

Garden tools make very pleasing birthday presents. Here are some that you might suggest to parents or friends who are anxiously considering what to give you:

Scuffle Hoe: This is a tool which makes weeding easier and pleasanter. You push it between the rows.

Wheel Hoe: This is fine for cultivating your garden. Run it between the rows once a week and the plants will thrive and the weeds won't. It is also so interesting an implement, with the little wheel in front and the bright red handles, that it is easy to beguile friends and visitors into pushing it. You can even show your little sister how to fasten her doll to it and give it a ride between the garden rows, which will be more instructive than a ride in a doll-carriage.

Dibble: This you can make yourself. Take the handle of a broken spade or earth-fork, cut it off so that, with the handle, it is only a foot long. Sharpen the cut end. This is a handy little tool in transplanting.

Rake, earth-fork, spade, hoe, trowel, watering pot. These are too familiar to need descrip-

tion. If you do not own them, usually they can be conveniently and economically borrowed from your parents.

"When the golden day is done,
Through the closing portal,
Child and garden, flower and sun,
Vanish all things mortal.

Garden darkened, dairy shut,
Child in bed, they slumber—
Glow-worm in the highway rut,
Mice among the lumber.

In the darkness houses shine,
Parents move with candles;
Till, on all, the night divine
Turns the bedroom handles."

—*R. L. Stevenson.*

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